REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully

requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment the specification is amended to correct minor

informalities, and to update the "Disclosure of the Invention" section to be consistent with the

claims.

Further, claims 1-8 are canceled without prejudice and new claims 9-17 are presented

for examination. Those new claims are deemed to be self-evident from the original

disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new

matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough

examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is

hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

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(OSMMN 06/04)

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